

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-21 are currently pending in the patent application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4, 8, 10 and 17-20 under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite; has rejected Claim 13 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Ito; has rejected Claims 14-16 as unpatentable over Ito; and, has indicated that Claims 1-11 and 18-21 recite allowable subject matter.

By the present amendment, Applicants have amended the language of the claims to address the 112 issues. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that it was unclear in Claims 1, 4, 10, and 17-20 what is meant by "back-and-forth transfer". Applicants have amended the claims to recite "back-and-forth transfer of a communication packet between adjoining communications terminals". Support for the claim language is found in the Specification, for example at page 9, line 21; page 15, lines 10-12; and, page 16, lines 4-6. Further, the Examiner has indicated that it is unclear what is meant by "expected time for said communications terminals to go out of communication range". The Specification teaches that the expected time can be known (see: for example at page 6, line 25-page 7, line 3; and page 14, lines 8-15) based on monitoring (page 34, lines 5-6).

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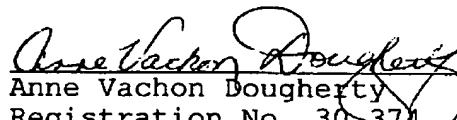
Applicants have amended the language of the claims consistent with the teachings of the Specification. The Examiner has additionally stated that the terms "valid time period" and "short time period" are unclear. Applicants have amended the language of the claims to more clearly distinguish between the packet time period (defined, e.g., on page 17, lines 8-9), the group time period (also referred to as the "belonging to group time period", see: e.g., page 17, lines 19-22, page 16, lines 4-8, and page 21, lines 7-11), and the terminal time period (page 18, lines 15-24, page 19, line 9, and page 21, lines 22-25). Applicants believe that the amendments render all of the remaining claims definite and allowable.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the amended claim language in light of the remarks, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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